

THE KNIGHTLY NEWS



MOUNT ST. FRANCIS COUNCIL #12228
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO
2025 May Edition

GRAND KNIGHT'S VIEWS



Our Council had another amazing month in May! We started it with an Exemplification where three new brother Knights were brought into our council. They are Rick Barnes, Santino Lawrence and Rick Cogar. Our heartfelt welcome and congratulations as they begin their journey as Knights.

Then on Mother's Day we celebrated by starting the day right, with our special Mother's Day breakfast. It is always a delight to be there as our parishioners come out of the morning Masses and watch many of the mother's faces light up in surprise when they see some of us brother Knights in tuxedos, ready to serve them their choice of Mimosas, Poinsettias and/or Prosecco as part of a delicious complimentary breakfast. I

was very blessed because my mother, my sister, my wife Lise, our son Tom and wife Erayna along with our 4 grandchildren (including Judy), were able to attend. Wow, that's 4 generations with 3 generations of mothers!!

The day before Lise and I left on our 5-day 42nd anniversary get-away to Pagosa Springs, we were blessed to be able to attend Gary Lowman's funeral Mass and celebration of his life with Karen, family and friends. It was an honor to serve with my Brothers Knights on the Honor Guard for both the Mass and at the Columbarium afterwards. Farewell, Sir Knight Gary Lowman, until we meet again.

In Pagosa Springs, while attending Mass at the Immaculate Heart of Mary church, we were fortunate to meet and have a nice chat with a brother knight from their council, Peter Dach, who happened to be a Past Grand Knight of their council. On day 5, which was our anniversary, we headed back to Colorado Springs for the honor of attending the U.S. Air Force Academy Commissioning Ceremony of two of our

council's newer brother knights, Eusebio (Sebi) Aja and Benjamin (Ben) Nash. What an exciting time for these young brother knights as they graduate and become Air Force 2nd Lieutenants.

On the last day of May our council had the pleasure of putting on another BBQ lunch for the Sisters of St Francis. It has always been special to spend time with them through the years. In fact, I've known Sister Carmella since before my son Tom was born. I would have never guessed that at age 94 she'd be taking Tom's 4-year-old son (our grandson Richie) during our BBQ lunch, by the hand to show him a statue of Jesus. Praise be to God!

We do indeed have so much to be thankful for, and having the Knights and Ladies as part of our extended family along with our parish and the Sisters of St Francis is truly one of our greatest blessings. As we move into a June filled with more activities of charity, unity and fraternity, may the light of Christ continue to shine through each of you!

Vivat Jesus,

Michael Wolfe

Grand Knight, Mount St Francis Council
12228

Top: Mike, Peter Dach

Middle: Sebi, Mike, Ben

Right: New Knights Rick Cogar, Santino Lawrence & Rick Barnes



MAY 2025 LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Condolences to Dorothy Bartlett and Karen Lowman on the loss of their husbands, Randy and Gary. Please keep them and their families in your prayers at this difficult time.

Farewell to the Vidinha family, Mike, Erika, Angel and Daisy as they embark on their new life journey to be closer to family in the Carolinas. You will be missed!

Continued prayers are asked for Margaret Beaty and Janet Sutay and their families for strength and courage as they face their cancer battles.

Butter Braids

We sold 233 Units for a profit of approximately \$1500 (including credit card fees and donations). Thank you to everyone who volunteered, purchased or supported our fundraising efforts. We appreciate you all for your support!

Mother's Day Breakfast – Sunday, May 11

Our Mother's Day breakfast was a resounding success! Thank you to the Ladies who helped decorate the hall to make it welcoming to all our Moms and families. Smitty's Wranglers fed many hungry Moms (and Dads and kids). As always, the complimentary Mimosas and Poinsettias were a big hit. The line snaked around the hall!

Sisters BBQ – Saturday, May 31

Once again, we had wonderful attendance for the Sisters' BBQ. The Knights grilled chicken, brats and hamburgers – even a special order for Sr. Mac! After a delicious filling meal and adult beverages, Jay and Susan Ridge provided musical entertainment with various reminiscent tunes thru the decades. A great time was had by all! Thank you to Joe Shonka and all our volunteers for organizing this event. See pictures below.

Mater Filius Update

Lynnette Condron is a volunteer at Mater Filius. She shared with us that there are currently 5 women expecting and some with small children staying at Mater Filius. She had the opportunity to help the working moms shop at the Evening BLUtique (Building Lives Up) and they enjoyed the chance to use their credits for clothing and toys and stuffed animals.

Bakhita Mountain Home Update

Maria Wolfe shared that there were 4 or 5 women at Bakhita Mountain Home. Not only do they serve their residents, but they have also provided various services to over 150 non-residents since opening their doors. These might include referrals to other programs or to service providers as well as access to case management services. The Bakhita Mountain Home annual walk at Mt. St. Francis is scheduled for Aug 2, 9am – 12pm, so mark your calendars!

June Meeting – June 5

Our June meeting will be the Officers' Installation meeting. We usually skip the Rosary and regular meeting and start earlier with Heavy hors d'oeuvres after in the hall, dessert will be provided. We will meet in the hall at 6pm to setup and quickly discuss our designated donations for 2025.

Father's Day Breakfast – June 15

Celebrate our Dads at the Father's Day Breakfast on Sunday, June 15 after the morning Masses. Dads eat free!

Departed Knights Dinner – Friday, June 27 at 6pm

We will be honoring the departed members of our Knights of Columbus families in the church hall on Friday, June 27 at 6pm. Harvey's Hashers will be providing a delicious meal free of cost. This is a KOC event with our widows and widowers invited as special guests (not open to the parish). Please send your photo (1 per deceased) to Javan Ridge as soon as possible for the memorial slideshow. RSVP to lmgw0313@outlook.com with how many in your group will be attending.

Safe travels and have a relaxing summer!

Lise Wolfe, 719-237-9122





Pages 4 & 5 photos are from Sisters BBQ Lunch



MOTHERS DAY BREAKFAST



CULTURE OF LIFE

Participate in the annual Life Network Walk for Life on Saturday, June 7

- Raise funds
- Support another participant

Why Do YOU Walk for Life?

As a fundraising Walker, you probably want to tell your friends WHY their sponsorships matter.

What does their gift really do?

Every week we:

- ✓ Give NO COST ultrasounds so moms and dads can see and hear their baby's heartbeat.
 - ✓ Provide counseling, parenting classes, and support (up until their baby is 2 years old).
 - ✓ Pay for critical advertising so women seeking abortion will find us instead.
 - ✓ Provide cribs, clothing, formula, diapers, and other needs for the babies' first 2 years.
 - ✓ Introduce the clients to Jesus Christ and His gift of eternal life.
- ...and so much more.

Register online at:

<https://www.walkforlife.com/>

Our 2025 Walk for Life theme is ***Light in the Darkness***. As believers, we are called to shine as lights in a world darkened by sin and despair. With our state embracing the darkness of abortion disguised as "reproductive freedom," we are compelled, now more than ever, to shine the light of Christ and the truth of the abundant Life that He offers.



SUPPORT THE WORK OF BAKHITA MOUNTAIN HOME!



STEPS TO EMPOWER

1 MILE WALK

2 AUGUST 2025
9:00am - 12:00pm

REGISTER NOW



@bakhitamountainhome.org



Novena to Saint John the Baptist

Novena begins: June 15; Feast Day: June 24

Let us begin, In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

O Holy St. John, from all eternity you were chosen To prepare the way for Our Lord Jesus Christ. We implore your intercession for ...

(Mention your request here...)

For all of our members in their work And for all those we serve. Pray for us that we may receive the courage and strength To persevere in announcing the Good News of Jesus Christ, Who came to seek and save the lost, To heal the broken hearted and to bind up their wounds. May we be guided by the Holy Spirit With good words of counsel for those in need. May we be strengthened by your prayers And good example as we prepare the way for

the Healing power of Jesus to heal and transform Those entrusted to our care. We ask all of this through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

Pray 1: Our Father... Pray 1: Hail Mary... Pray 1: Glory Be...

FYI: Patron Saint of Baptism, conversion, monks, Jordan, Puerto Rico, and many other places



FAMILY OF THE MONTH



The Knights of Columbus Council 12228 Family of the Month for April 2025 is The Eric and Bonnie Kniffin Family. Brother Knight Eric joined the order over 15 years ago before they moved to Colorado. After getting to know the Kniffin family over the last year, it became apparent to me that they serve as a model of Catholic Family Values making family and faith top priorities. In the words of Father Erin, they are an awesome family!

The entire family attends weekly Mass together, usually the 10:30am on Sunday. During Holy week, they were there together at St Francis for both Holy Thursday and Good Friday. Their oldest daughter, Catherine (19) has continued her faith journey as she finishes her first year at Hillsdale College. Then in the next school year, Mary (17) will be a high school senior, Thomas (16) a junior, and Lilly (14) a freshman. Michael their special needs son, died at the end of 2021, and is interned at

the St Francis Columbarium. They are followed by John (12), Anne (9) and Clare (7). They emphasize the importance of praying together as a family and pray outside of Mass regularly. Each Sunday they do a rosary after Mass at Michael's grave. All of the children are polite, respectful and attentive. They are a joy to be around.

They are a tight-knit family that spends quality time together such as skiing, hiking Garden of the Gods, and family board game nights. They support each other in sports and activities which include track, swimming, gymnastics, ballet, soccer and band. When time permits, they attend daily Mass and adoration. The family also attends St Francis parish social functions such as Coffee and Donuts along with Parish Breakfasts.

Eric is a board member with Inferno and he and his son Thomas have been a father-son Inferno Bible study at the Boznel House at St. Francis on Friday evenings. Bonnie is involved with women's ministries in the Diocese, including the new Unity Women apostolate. Thomas and John are altar servers and Thomas also serves as an usher.

The Kniffin family genuinely demonstrate the principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity to our parish and community, serving as great role models for married Catholic couples and families. This family has earned and truly deserves the designation of "Family of the Month", as we honor them as the Council 12228 Family of the Month for April 2025.

- **Mike Wolfe, Grand Knight**

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

The April 2025 Knight of the Month for Mount St. Francis Council 12228 is **Sir Knight Javan Ridge**. SK Javan, a.k.a. J dot, is a Third-Degree member of our council joining the Order in May 2016. SK J. is a Fourth-Degree member of Assembly 88.

J. is not only our council's Deputy Grand Knight but recently became the Faithful Navigator for Assembly 88. J. has served as one of the Color Corps Commanders of Assembly 88 and has taken it to a new level of professionalism and respect.

Let's look at what a month of service looks like for J. It started the first Thursday of April supporting our council's membership meeting. The next day, Friday, he was back at St Francis to assist our council with leading the Stations of the Cross. Then on Saturday, he was on an Honor Guard at St Patrick's for a brother knight's funeral. Later that same day he was back at St

Francis supporting the Christ Welcomes You retreat with his musical talents. A week later he's conducting Honor Guard Training for our 4th degree Assembly. Then, it was Holy Week, and J. helped lead the Honor Guard for Holy Thursday Mass and the Adoration ceremony afterwards. After Holy week he was on the parking team directing traffic for the Easter Sunday Masses at St Francis.

The Wednesday following Easter, J. presided over our Assembly 88 meeting and then on Thursday attended our council officers meeting. The very next day, Friday, was the start of the Knights of Columbus 3-day Colorado State Convention here in Colorado Springs. Not only did he attend as one of our council's primary delegates, he served on the Honor Guard multiple times during the convention. Remarkably, before starting his Honor Guard duties with the opening Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on Friday, earlier that afternoon, he was on an Honor Guard for the interment for brother SK Bob Mosey at the Mount St. Francis Columbarium.

He wrapped up the month, Tuesday April 29th, leading the Honor Guard at the Funeral Mass for SK Randy Bartlett here at St Francis. Wow, that means J. was engaged in Knights activities every day except Monday during that 7-day period. If my math is correct that's 6 days out of 7. For the month I'm guessing we even missed a few things.

Brother J. Ridge does indeed genuinely demonstrate the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism to our council, parish and community. He has earned and truly deserves the designation of "Knight of the Month" for April 2025.

- **Mike Wolfe, Grand Knight**



HONORING VETERANS

On Tuesday, May 27th, Knights of Columbus from Assembly 88 honored veterans who live at ViewPoint Care Center, including Knights from St. Francis Parish. Young and old veterans tend to identify themselves through military service. Elderly veterans may be away from family and old friends as they are no longer self-sufficient. They may get excellent care in a care facility, but there may be little recognition of their military service, which is their main point of self-pride. Knights began the program by marching in with the Colors, and the National Anthem was sung. The Colors are posted, and then the veterans are called forward, starting with Army veterans (the oldest branch) and proceeding through Space Forces (the newest branch). By branch, the veterans (standing with their branch flag) sing their branch song and then state their name, where they went for their initial training and their favorite job. The Color Guard returns and conducts honors for fallen members and veterans, followed by a prayer. Then, the Colors are formally retired — a social followed with refreshments and time to talk with veterans.

Far-right Color Corp Commander Mike Kindt, left of Mike SK Rick Perez



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Every Friday Morning	Rachel Rosary @ 9:15 am, 3420 Centennial Boulevard
June 5, Thursday	Council Meeting, 6:30pm. Meeting Rooms B and C. After meeting Officers installation in the Church. Social to follow in the Hall.
June 7, Saturday	Walk for Life, Memorial Park (register at walkforlife.com)
June 15, Sunday	Fathers' Day Breakfast, after 8:30 and 10:30 masses, by Mike's Brewers
June 19, Thursday	Council Officer's Meeting, Rooms B and C, Time: 7:00 p.m.
June 27, Friday	Departed Brothers Dinner, 6:30pm
June 21, Saturday	Marian House Cooking Team
June 24, Tuesday	Nativity of St. John the Baptist
June TBD, Saturday	Habitat for Humanity, Apostles Build – TBD at the Kick-off meeting on 5/7
Next Month(s)	
July 1, Tuesday	Canada Day (Anniversary of Canadian Confederation)
July 3, Thursday	Council Meeting, 6:45 p.m. Rosary, 7:10 p.m., Rooms B and C, Knights, Ladies Auxiliary meeting (Hall), followed by Social in Hall.
July 4, Friday	Independence Day
July 17, Thursday	Council Officer's Meeting, Rooms B and C, Time: 7:00 p.m.
August 2, Saturday	Steps to Empower Walk in support of Bakhita Mountain Home
July 26, Saturday	Marian House Cooking Team
September 25 & 26	Life Network 42 nd Fundraising Gala and Silent Auction with Mark Shultz, DoubleTree Hotel

COUNCIL #12228 OFFICERS	
Grand Knight	Michael Wolfe
Chaplain	Fr. Erin Kochivar
Chaplain Emeritus	Fr. Ken Przybyla
Deputy Grand Knight	Javan Ridge
Chancellor	Robert Bogart
Advocate	John Heyne
Recording Secretary	Gene Saggi
Treasurer	Ron Toman
Warden	Michael Kindt
Inside Guard	William Wolfe
Outside Guard	Dominic Fontem
Lecturer	Joe Priester
1st Year Trustee	PGK Robert Condron
2nd Year Trustee	Frank Castellano
3rd Year Trustee	Randy Bartlett
Financial Secretary	Ron Born

District Deputy	Al Batey
SERVICE PROGRAM DIRECTORS	
Program Director	Ben Davis
Faith	Larry Gray
Community	Joe Shonka
Family	Paul Lagatta
Life Director	Harvey Siegle
Membership	Ron Toman
Cooking Team Director	Mike Ortiz
Retention	Michael Kindt
Public Relations	Robert Condron
Technical Support	Paul Lagatta Michael Kindt
Newsletter Editor	Harvey Siegle
INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVE	
Brandon L. Nelson	719-565-8896 brandon.nelson@kofc.org



Prayer for the Blessed Month of June

O Lord,

Thank You for this refreshing new month that You have given us!
We want to honor You and stay on the right path this month.
Empower us by Your Holy Spirit to obey.

Please protect us from powers of darkness trying to harm us. We
ask for good health for ourselves, and our friends and family
members. Bless our local church and help our hearts to catch fire to
serve You faithfully.

Open doors for our spiritual growth and help us to have a renewing
and refreshing new month in You!

In the name of Jesus, we ask this,

Amen.

Editor's Note: Send questions, letters, comments, or article ideas to the editor. Submissions must be received by the 26th of the month for inclusion in that month's newsletter. -

harvey.siegle@saintfranciskofc.org

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Mount St. Francis Council #12228 website: <http://saintfranciskofc.org/>

Knights of Columbus Colorado State website: <http://www.coloradokofc.org/>

Knights of Columbus Supreme website: <http://www.kofc.org>